

Site Assessment CERCLIS Data Entry/Decision Form EPA Region III



SDMS DocID 2169047

Site Name: Suffolk Town Gas Site Alias: _____
 Site ID#: 03 DSN/ State ID: VA-230 SSID/ Spill ID: _____ EPA ID#: VAD980693030

Site-Level Data

Modify CERCLIS Site Information: (Enter the Site or Action-Level updates required)

Add NFRAP and REA completion

☐ Add ☐ Edit Latitude/Longitude Values: Lat: + _____ Long: - _____

Non-NPL Status: (Verify with list of valid NPL/Non-NPL values) _____ Status Change Date: _____

Merge Site/Aggregate Site: _____ Parent Site ID: _____
 (When merging or aggregating a site, identify Parent/Child relationship)

☒ **Final Assessment Decision (FAD)** (Can this site be Archived?)

FAD Date: _____

☒ **Archive** (Check that there are No Prohibited Open Actions before Archiving)

Archive Date: _____

☐ **Unarchive** (Document to Site File)

Unarchive Date: _____

☐ **ERS Exclusion** (An ERS Exclusion Determination Form must be completed)

ERS Exclusion Date: _____

☐ **NFFA (No Further Federal Action)**

NFFA Date: _____

☐ **Special Initiatives:**

☐ Environmental Justice (EJ)

☐ Military Munitions Response Program (MMRP) (MM)

☐ RCRA Deferral: (Check One) _____ Lead Confirmed (RB) _____ New Decision (RC) _____ Further Superfund Assessment (RE)

☐ Smelter Site: (Check One) _____ Smelter Activities _____ Unrecognized Smelter per 2001 Report

Action-Level Data

Remedial Site Assessments (RSAD/GPRA Target)

Action Name	Lead	Start Date	Compl. Date	Qualifier
<small>*Completion dates entered on the Actions designated below will count towards the RSAD GPRA target.</small>				
Pre-CERCLIS Screening (HX)		/ /	/ /	
Preliminary Assessment (PA)		/ /	/ /	
Site Inspection (SI)		/ /	/ /	
Expanded Site Inspection (ESI)		/ /	/ /	
ESI/RI (SS)		/ /	/ /	
HRS Package (HR)		/ /	/ /	
Site Reassessment (OO)	F	10/01/12	7/25/13	N
Fed Fac PA Review (RX)		/ /	/ /	
Fed Fac SI Review (TY)		/ /	/ /	
Fed Fac ESI Review (TZ)		/ /	/ /	
Discovery (DS)		/ /	/ /	
State Deferral (AQ)		/ /	/ /	
Referred from RCRA (XR)		/ /	/ /	
Other Cleanup Activity (VA) (Enter Subaction below)		/ /	/ /	
<small>(For OCA Start, please check FAD box and add FAD date)</small>				
<input type="checkbox"/> Comprehensive Site Investigation	<input type="checkbox"/> Remedy Selection	<input type="checkbox"/> Construction	<input type="checkbox"/> Trip Report	/ /
<input type="checkbox"/> Post-Construction Maintenance	<input type="checkbox"/> Design	<input type="checkbox"/> Short Term Cleanup	<input type="checkbox"/> Work Plan Submitted	/ /
Laboratory Support (LA) (add only when using START Contract)		/ /	/ /	
<small>Start Date - date site is initiated Completion Date - date site is Archived</small>				

Dawn Fulsher	<small>Digitally signed by Dawn Fulsher DN: cn=Dawn Fulsher, ou=EPA Region III, ou=HSCD, email=fulsher.dawn@epa.gov, c=US Date: 2013.07.17 16:34:13 -0400</small>	7/25/13	Dawn Fulsher	<small>Digitally signed by Dawn Fulsher DN: cn=Dawn Fulsher, ou=EPA Region III, ou=HSCD, email=fulsher.dawn@epa.gov, c=US Date: 2013.07.25 13:48:09 -0400</small>
Site Assessment Manager (SAM) Signature	Date	SA Data Entry/Report QA/QC Signature	Date	
Alizabeth Olhasso	<small>Digitally signed by Alizabeth Olhasso DN: cn=Alizabeth Olhasso, o=epaHSCD, email=olhasso.alizabeth@epa.gov, c=US Date: 2013.08.12 14:05:42 -0400</small>	8/13/13		
Site Assessment Branch Chief Signature	Date	GPRA/CERCLIS Data Quality Coordinator (DQC) Signature	Date	



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION III
1650 Arch Street
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19103-2029

REMEDIAL SITE ASSESSMENT DECISION - EPA REGION III

Site Name:	Suffolk Town Gas		
CERCLIS ID#:	VAD980693030		
DSN:	VA-230		
Alias Site Names:			
City:	Suffolk		
County:			
State:			
Refer to Report Dated:	December 2012		
Report Type:	Reassessment Report for Suffolk Town Gas		
Report developed by:	Blueskies for Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (VDEQ)		
Site Decision Made by:	Dawn Fulsher	Date:	7/25/2013

DECISION: N

- 1. Further Remedial Site Assessment under CERCLA (Superfund) is not required because:**
 - N - NFRAP No Further Remedial Action Planned
 - A - Addressed as part of an existing NPL site (site will be entered if this is selected)
 - D - Deferred to RCRA
 - B - Addressed as part of another non-NPL site
 - W - Referred to Removal, no further Remedial Assessment
 - DN - Deferred to NRC
 - SA - Recommended as a SF Alternative Site
 - OCA - Other Cleanup Activity: Fed Fac (FF) Private Party Lead (PP) State Lead (OS)
- 2. Further Assessment Needed Under CERCLA:**
 - H - Higher Priority for further assessment
 - L - Lower priority for further assessment
 - G - Recommended for HRS Scoring
 - F - Referred to Removal, Needs further Remedial Assessment

DISCUSSION/RATIONALE:

Site History

The Suffolk Town Gas site is a 2 acre site located in Suffolk, Virginia surrounded by commercial and residential areas. The site is located adjacent to an unnamed perennial tributary which flows into the Nansemond River which is approximately 1,500 feet from the site. The Suffolk Town

Gas began operation as a carbureted coal gasification plant in 1904 which produced synthetic gas from coke. The carbureted water gas process often produced watery tar emulsions which tended to be more mobile and less viscous than typical tars. Tar wastes often leaked from the piping throughout the coal gas distribution system. Small plants such as Suffolk Town would typically dispose of such coal gasification wastes on site as selling the tar would not have been very profitable. Around 1940 the plant was modified to distribute propane gas until 1950 when the plant was used to distribute natural gas. In the 1980s the Virginia Natural Gas bought Suffolk Gas Company. Consolidated Natural Gas subsequently purchased Virginia Natural Gas in 1990 and the Hill Street facility became the property of Dominion Lands. The site is currently fenced and has no structures located on the property.

Environmental History

In January 1984, a site inspection (SI) was conducted at the Suffolk Town Gas site for EPA Region 3. An earlier Preliminary Assessment (PA) conducted in 1983 identified a coal gas waste disposal pit which was sampled during the SI which was 6 to 8 feet wide, 33 feet long, and 12 to 15 feet deep. During the SI samples were collected in areas where waste overflowed from the pit, the waste pit, and sediment from a perennial stream receiving drainage from the pit. The sample results indicated that there was significant PAH contamination in the pit, the area where the waste overflowed from the pit, and in the perennial stream sediments. Coal tar constituents such as polyaromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) were detected in the sample from the waste pit such as naphthalene at 53,000 µg/kg, benzo(a)anthracene at 17,000 µg/kg, benzo(b)fluoranthene at 8,800 µg/kg, anthracene at 21,000 µg/kg, fluorene at 25,000 µg/kg, phenanthrene at 57,000 µg/kg, and 2-methylnaphthalene at 110,000 µg/kg.

In 1986 Schnabel Engineering Associates (SEA) conducted a Phase I and Phase II investigation at the site. During the Phase I site visit SEA observed evidence of creosote wastes in soil and surface water, hundreds of discarded locomotive batteries, construction wastes, and creosote treated railroad ties on the Suffolk Town Gas property and on the railroad easement. During the Phase II investigation SEA installed six test borings, nine hand auger borings and six test pit excavations. The test borings and the hand augers were completed as 15, two inch diameter monitoring wells. Groundwater data collected during the Phase II investigation and sampling events conducted in 1993 and 1994 indicated that the Yorktown Formation, the surficial aquifer, is significantly contaminated with coal tar related contaminants such as BTEX (benzene, toluene, ethylbenzene, and xylene) and PAHs. Some of the contaminants detected in groundwater included benzene up to 5,700 µg/L, chlorobenzene up to 4 µg/L, toluene up to 470 µg/L, xylene up to 2,400 µg/L, ethylbenzene up to 3,000 µg/L and naphthalene up to 5,400 µg/L. As VOCs such as BTEX have the tendency to produce vapor phase contamination there is a potential for vapors to migrate offsite through the gravel beds of sanitary sewer lines where they may migrate beneath occupied structures.

In 1986 SEA conducted a removal of the contents of the pit and coal tar wastes located on the surface. These wastes were temporarily stored onsite but were subsequently disposed of offsite in 1988. Groundwater was treated by pumping contaminated water from collection sumps and treating the water using activated carbon filters and disposing of treated water via the sanitary sewers. The VADEQ does not have any record of site closure but the last round of groundwater data was collected in 1993. The data collected at that time demonstrated that the groundwater

was still heavily contaminated with VOCs and PAHs many which were above federal safe drinking water criteria. In 2012 EPA requested that VADEQ conduct a reassessment of the site to determine if the site should be evaluated for placement on the National Priorities List (NPL).

Pathways and Exposure

The groundwater pathway was evaluated during the reassessment of the site. The groundwater underlying the site is heavily contaminated with VOCs and PAHs originating from the historical use of the site as a coal gasification plant. However, no active municipal drinking water wells or private drinking water wells are located within a 4 mile radius of the site. The public is not currently exposed to contaminated groundwater originating from the site. The site was evaluated under the surface water pathway as part of the reassessment and there are no surface water intakes located in a 15 mile target distance limit of the site and it is unlikely that contaminants have migrated to areas that are currently used as fisheries. Based on existing information, the unnamed perennial stream located adjacent to the site is not utilized as fishery. The nearest documented fishery and wetlands are located on the Nansemond River 1,500 feet from the small perennial stream located near the site. Thus it is unlikely the public is being exposed to contaminants through ingestion of fish exposed to contaminated sediments and the public does not obtain drinking water from surface water in the vicinity of the site.

Decision

The Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (VADEQ) completed a reassessment of the site in December 2012 at the request of EPA. EPA has reviewed the information from the reassessment report for this site and does not expect this site to score under the Hazard Ranking System (HRS). The HRS is the model that EPA uses to determine if sites are eligible for being placed on the National Priorities List (NPL). Although ground water contamination was observed during environmental investigations conducted in 1986, 1993, and 1994, ground water is not currently being used as a drinking water supply in the areas surrounding the site and the public is not exposed to contaminated drinking water originating from the site. Individuals encountering the site are prevented from coming in contact with contaminated soil as the site is enclosed by a chain link fence. While there is documented sediment contamination in the perennial stream near the site, the stream is small and unlikely to support fish large enough for human consumption. Thus, it is unlikely that the public is eating fish contaminated from the sediments near the site. There are no wetlands located along the unnamed, perennial, stream near the site and the nearest wetlands are 1,500 feet from the site thus, it is unlikely that contaminated soil or sediments migrated that distance to the wetlands.

In order for a site to score under the HRS model humans or ecological receptors must be currently exposed to contaminated groundwater, soil, or sediments. Based on information from the Reassessment report it is unlikely that the public is currently exposed to contaminated groundwater, sediments, or soil at the site. The Suffolk Town Gas site is not expected to score above the 28.5 needed to be proposed to the NPL at this time. Currently the HRS model that EPA uses to evaluate sites does not take into account exposure of inhaling contaminants that migrate from contaminated groundwater into occupied structures. EPA is working toward a proposed rulemaking to add a new vapor intrusion screening component to the HRS model. As there is contamination in the groundwater that may potentially emit vapors to occupied structures, EPA may re-evaluate the site pending the inclusion of vapor intrusion pathway in the

HRS model. The EPA anticipates no need for Superfund enforcement, investigatory, cost recovery, or cleanup action at this site at this time, unless new data or information that warrants further consideration or conditions not previously known to EPA regarding the site are discovered. Therefore, the site will be entered with a priority of "No Further Remedial Action Planned" at this time.